



**Morning Alert - Tuesday, October 4, 2016**

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## **HEADLINES**

### **Morning news**

All networks and national dailies gave top play to reports that Japanese biologist Yoshinori Ohsumi has won this year's Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine for discovering the mechanism of autophagy, a process in which cells in the body break down and recycle themselves.

## **AMBASSADOR**

### **Ambassador Kennedy speaks about women's roles in environmental protection**

Monday evening's Asahi front-paged a report on Ambassador Kennedy's remarks on Monday at the Asahi World Forum 2016, during which she commented on women's roles in environmental protection and other fields. The paper quoted the Ambassador as saying that the U.S. and Japan "share values" for solving global challenges.

## **INTERNATIONAL**

### **Japan informs U.S. it will keep Northern Territories issue separate from sanctions on Russia**

Asahi front-paged a report saying that it has learned from former Vice Foreign Minister Saiki that the Abe administration decided to keep Japan's discussions with Russia on the Northern Territories separate from international sanctions on Moscow and informed the U.S. government of this policy immediately after Russia annexed Crimea in March 2014. The paper wrote that Prime Minister Abe sent Saiki to Washington in April 2014 to hold consultations with then Deputy National Security Advisor Blinken and that the U.S. official showed some understanding toward Japan's policy.

According to a GOJ source, Abe explained Japan's policy to President Obama when they spoke over the phone in February this year and to Vice President Biden when they met in New York in September about the decision to invite President Putin to Japan in December. The paper wrote that Abe informed Washington of his policy at an early date based on the judgment that it would be necessary for Japan to gain American understanding for inviting Putin to Japan. The paper quoted another GOJ source as saying that there are deep-seated concerns in the State Department and elsewhere in the USG about rapprochement between Tokyo and Moscow.

### **Japan, Russia to hold strategic dialogue**

Yomiuri wrote that Japan and Russia have decided to hold a bilateral strategic dialogue between their vice foreign ministers next week in Moscow. This will be the first time for the two nations to hold such a meeting since February 2013. The senior Japanese and Russian officials are expected to discuss the Northern Territories and Japan's 8-point economic assistance package to Russia in preparation for President Putin's planned visit to Japan in December.

### **Abe not considering writing letters of apology to former comfort women**

Most papers reported on remarks made by Prime Minister Abe at a Lower House Budget Committee session on Monday, during which he commented on a request to Abe from the comfort women foundation established by the ROK government to write letters of apology to the former comfort women. A South Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman stated on Sept. 29 that the ROK government expects Japan to take additional measures to heal the women's emotional wounds. The premier stated that the GOJ is not considering sending letters of apology to the women because both countries are required to sincerely implement the measures in the comfort women agreement and letters of apology were not part of the agreement.

### **Japan, Qatar agree to cooperate to ensure stable energy supply**

Sankei wrote that Foreign Minister Kishida held talks with his Qatari counterpart Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani on Monday at MOFA and agreed to cooperate in ensuring a stable supply of liquefied natural gas and crude oil. The two nations also agreed to strengthen their security cooperation to combat terrorism. Kishida said that Japan would like to boost bilateral cooperation in a wide range of fields. The Qatari foreign minister said in reply that Japan is an important partner for Qatar and that his nation hopes to cooperate with Japan in areas other than energy as well.

## **ECONOMY**

### **Ruling coalition hopes to begin Diet deliberations on TPP bills on Oct. 14**

Sankei wrote that the LDP and the Komeito party decided on Monday to begin consultations with the opposition parties on starting deliberations on the TPP bills at the Lower House on Oct. 14. In a related development, the paper wrote that senior Komeito lawmakers, including Secretary General

Inoue, expressed displeasure on Monday at LDP Diet member Fukui's remarks last week, in which he expressed his willingness to railroad the TPP legislation during the current Diet session.

### **LDP seeks to resume discussions on casino legislation**

Asahi wrote that LDP Secretary General Nikai, General Council Chairman Hosoda, and Policy Research Council Chairman Motegi confirmed their party's plan to aim to resume Diet deliberations on casino legislation in early November. The LDP will make a final decision on the matter later this month by gauging progress in discussions on other matters at the Lower House Cabinet Committee.

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